The Best Things to do in the Suburbs of Tokyo

Nature, Anime, History, Festivals, Food

Discover and Experience Sayama Tea

All Anime Fans aboard the Seibu Railway

Head to Mountains and Hills on the Seibu Line

Spend an amazing day at an amusement park for some “only in Japan” experiences

Seibu Line’s - Must Do & See Spots -

A Town of History and Festivals: Kawagoe & Chichibu
Get around the Seibu Line with the "All-you-can-ride Pass"

With the Seibu 1Day Pass and the Seibu 2Day Pass you can hop on and off the Seibu Line as often as you want and experience culture to the fullest. Go to the suburbs or visit the sacred places of Kawagoe and Chichibu, where you can enjoy the charm of traditional culture of the Edo Period to the fullest. This ticket is the best partner for tourists in Japan.

**Ticket Information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>SEIBU</strong></th>
<th><strong>Price and type</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>1Day Pass</td>
<td>1,000 yen</td>
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<td>2Day Pass</td>
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<td>2Day Pass + Nagatoro</td>
<td>3,000 yen</td>
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Valid on the Seibu Line or the Seibu Line + Chichibu Railway Line within the stated area

- Free of use between Nogami Station and Mitsumineguchi Station of Chichibu Railway
- Elementary school students and younger pay half of the above-mentioned price
- Free of use between Nogami Station and Mitsumineguchi Station of Chichibu Railway
- Seibu Tamagawa Line is not included
- Valid on the Seibu Line or the Seibu Line + Chichibu Railway Line within the stated area

**Where to buy**

- **Seibu Tourist Information Center Ikebukuro**
  - Hours: 8am – 3pm
  - Language support: Chinese & English (daily), Korean (occasionally)
  - Tickets available from 8am – 3pm

- Seibu Railway tickets, Keisei Railway "Skyliner Value Ticket" for Narita Airport

**This is also a great value!**

- Take pictures in a park designed after a northern European taverna.
- Plenty of restaurant options at the seat counter.
- Watch a baseball game at the stadium.
- "Traveling Restaurant - fifty two seats of happiness" that runs between Seibu-Ikebukuro Station – Seibu-Chichibu Station, Seibu-Shinjuku Station – Seibu-Chichibu Station and Seibu-Shinjuku Station – Hon-Kawagoe Station. Be in state of pure bliss riding the luxurious wagon with gourmet meals using seasonal ingredients while observing the beautiful scenery.

**Attention!**

**Traveling Restaurant - fifty two seats of happiness**

Famous architect Kengo Kuma designed the interior for the "Traveling Restaurant - fifty two seats of happiness" that runs between Seibu-Ikebukuro Station – Seibu-Chichibu Station, Seibu-Shinjuku Station – Seibu-Chichibu Station and Seibu-Shinjuku Station – Hon-Kawagoe Station. Be in a state of pure bliss riding the luxurious wagon with gourmet meals using seasonal ingredients while observing the beautiful scenery.

**Attention!**

**Illustrated Ticket Information Board**

Take pictures in a park designed after a northern European taverna.

**Attention!**

**Keisei Skyliner Value Tickets**

Buy the "Sky Value Ticket" at the "SEIBU Tourist Information Center Ikebukuro" on the same day as going to Narita Airport from central Tokyo. You can reach Narita Airport from Keiši Ueno Station or within 36 minutes from Nippori Station.

**Attention!**

**SEIBU PRINCE CLUB emi** member’s card

*Please refer to the website (https://emi.seibugroup.jp/en/) for further information regarding the "SEIBU PRINCE CLUB emi" member’s card.*

*Purchase conditions: You must be in possession of a foreign passport or a holder of the "SEIBU PRINCE CLUB emi" member’s card.*

*Elementary school students and younger pay half of the above-mentioned price*

*Free of use between Nogami Station and Mitsumineguchi Station of Chichibu Railway*

*Seibu Tamagawa Line is not included*
Head to Mountains and Hills on the Seibu Line

Riding the Seibu Line out of the city center, you will see gorgeous mountains, lovely rivers and breathtaking scenery in general. For lovers of the great outdoors, there are various trails suitable for beginner, intermediate and advanced hikers starting right at the station.

Mt. Futago-yama & Mt. Takekawa-dake Route Enjoy some panoramic views

Level: for experienced hikers

Yokose Station -> 15 min by taxi -> Ichi no Tori -> 5min -> Tomosaka Pass -> 60min -> Mt. Takekawa-dake -> 20min -> Mt. Tsubasa-yama -> 55min -> Mt. Yake-yama -> 65min -> Mt. Osaka-dake -> 10min -> Mt. Mo-dake -> 40min -> Sengen Jinya Shrine -> 40min -> Sengen Jinya Shrine Tori -> 10min -> Ashigakubo Station (Seibu Chichibu Line) Total: 5hrs 50min (not including taxi)

Mt. Futago-yama & Mt. Takekawa-dake Route Enjoy some panoramic views

Move from view to view as you make your way across mountainous areas, enjoying a new, breathtaking view with every stop. If this sounds appealing, then the forests near Mt. Futago-yama are waiting for you. At the top of Mt. Osaka-dake, you can enjoy a beautiful view of Chichibu. When making your way down, you will find plenty of winding roads near rocky areas. Be careful, though, as the way down can be steep at some points!

Oku Musashi’s Ancient Temple Route See temples off the beaten track

Level: beginner

Go on a temple adventure and see something new with every step! Southwest of Agano Station you will find a great hiking trail that leads to some of the most memorable temple visits. Make stops at Ne no Gongen (Tenryu-ji Temple) to see giant waraji (straw sandals), visit Takedera Temple’s beautiful lush foliage and relax at Hoko-ji Temple. This route is for those who want to combine the great outdoors with some reflective spirituality.

Sayama Park and Lake Tama Come visit magical forest

Famous animation directors have used Sayama Hills as a setting for their movies. Within this all year round beautiful scenery of shallow hills and valleys, a wide variety of flora and fauna flourished undisturbed in harmonious surroundings. Sayama Hills consists of five municipal parks providing various walking trails for a short or full day nature experience. Visit the many historical shrines and temples spread throughout the area within Japan’s unique nature. The trails around Lake Tama and Lake Sayama are the best places for your magical encounter with creatures famous from popular movies that live in the forest.

Mount Tenran-zan route An easy hike with an excellent view

Level: medium

Hiking this hill is a fun challenge that anyone can enjoy! Instead of a regular trail, Mt. Tenran-zan has exciting pathways that curl upwards, surrounded by vegetation. The top is an easy-to-reach goal and rewards you with a spectacular wide-open view. The path then leads you to interesting nature spots and temples. The hike ends on a cultural note with a visit to shrines and temples. After hiking, you can visit Hanno City, which has an authentic shotengai (traditional Japanese shopping street). From small shops to hidden corners, city-dwellers will be positively delighted by Hanno!

Stroll around the red spider lilies field; Koma no Sato A relaxing walk in the countryside for Kinchakuda Manjusyage

Level: easy to do with children

Hours: 8:30am – 5:30pm (no closing days) Address: 3-17-19 Tamako-cho, Higashimurayama-shi, Tokyo
Discover & Experience
Sayama Tea
Feel the Charm of Fields near the Center of Tokyo

Green tea, an absolute staple of Japanese culture, has evolved into an art into itself. The Sayama area is one of the “three big tea plantations” in Japan, the others being Shizuoka and Uji(Kyoto), but many people don’t know that this large tea production area is so close to Tokyo. It is said that this tea has “the color of Shizuoka, the scent of Uji and the taste is Sayama”. The Sayama area holds tea festivals during the picking season to celebrate the fresh batch of leaves. However, you can enjoy this tea all year round at various restaurants and tea shops. Be surprised by the remarkable versatility of Japanese tea!

Iruma City Museum ALIT
Discover the history of Tea

Iruma City is famous for its production of Sayama tea. A “tea museum” has been added to the Iruma City Museum ALIT, where visitors can immerse themselves in the world of Sayama tea as well as learn about other domestic and foreign teas. Tea ceremonies using matcha (powdered green tea) are well known, however, the sancha-do tea ceremony uses full-leaf tea. The museum features a reconstructed tea ceremony room, as well as an area with tools like pots and cups which are used during this traditional event. After your visit, treat yourself to different sorts of Sayama tea or get your hands on some exclusive tools for your own sencha do!

Iruma City Museum ALIT
Address: 2-15-5 Kotesashi-cho, Tokorozawa-shi, Saitama
Access: 3 min walk from Kotesashi Station (Seibu Ikebukuro Line)

Restaurant
Ochakko Salon Issen
Japanese-style meals prepared with Sayama tea

Be amazed by all the wonderful culinary creations you can make with tea. The owner of Issen talks lovingly about his menu and is very enthusiastic in letting you try the different tea variations. Discover tea potato salad, tea korokke (deep-fried-potato based dish) made with fresh vegetables, as well as a variety of tea-themed desserts. Any respectable tea-lover can’t afford to miss this unique and respectable tea-lover can’t afford to miss this unique and enjoyable experience.

Ochakko Salon Issen
Address: 1-14-5 Kusunokidai, Iruma-shi, Saitama
Access: 20 min bus ride from Irumashi Station (Seibu Ikebukuro Line) to Irumashi-shinden bus stop

Match Station
Matcha on the go

If you need your daily dose of matcha sweets, you can make a quick stop at Match Station. Besides offering delicious takeout pastries, this shop also sells manmaru matcha, a variety of obanyaki (a round confection made from warabi starch) you can try matcha ice cream such as matcha avocado (matcha over ice cream). If you’re not a sweet tooth, try their delicious tea-based soba noodles during lunchtime (11:30am – 3pm).

Match Station
Address: 1-14-5 Kusunokidai, Iruma-shi, Saitama
Access: 20 min bus ride from Irumashi Station (Seibu Ikebukuro Line)

Iruma Tea Café – Musashi Rikyu
Tea Expertise and Tea Sweets

This café is located inside Araien Honten, a tea shop that has been around long enough to offer quality tea worthy of winning the Emperor’s Cup Award. Here you will find Sayama tea cultivated at their own tea plantation, where only organic fertilizers are used. Besides the tea itself, you can find all the tools needed to brew your perfect cup! If you want to enjoy tea-based desserts while sitting on tatami mats in a café based on a Japanese tea room, look no further. Besides bringing you the classics such as annmitsu (jelly-based dessert) and warabi mochi (mochi made from warabi starch) you can also try matcha ice cream such as matcha and avo (matcha over ice cream). If you’re not a sweet tooth, try their delicious tea-based soba noodles during lunchtime (11:30am – 3pm).

Iruma Tea Café – Musashi Rikyu
Address: 6-9-8 Araien Honten, Iruma-shi, Saitama
Access: 13 min walk from Kotesashi Station (Seibu Ikebukuro Line)

Sayama Tea Cola
A new way to enjoy tea

Utilizing the natural sweeteners of tea leaves, this carbonated drink was invented to promote Sayama tea and features a refreshing aftertaste. This innovative refreshment shows again that tea is a tremendously versatile ingredient.

Miyano-en
Time for Tea and Fun

This store, featuring expert advice and a fascinating history of tea approval standards, was established in 1869. Immerse yourself fully in the world of tea by participating in picking events (May to June) and dressing up in a traditional ochi musume (tea girl) outfit. More than just a shop, Miyano-en is the closest location to Tokyo where you can get a taste of authentic Japanese teas. Join in a hands-on tea rolling experience, learn how to pack tea by yourself and enjoy yummy sweets made from Sayama tea. Tea workshops and tastings can be arranged, where you will discover the unique and refreshing taste of Sayama tea.

Miyano-en
Address: 1-15-5 Kotesashi-cho, Tokorozawa-shi, Saitama
Access: 3 min walk from Kotesashi Station (Seibu Ikebukuro Line)

If you were looking for anything tea-related:

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Access: 20 min bus ride from Irumashi Station (Seibu Ikebukuro Line)
Spend an amazing day at an amusement park for some “only in Japan” experiences

Japan has dozens of theme and amusement parks (including global brand names such as Disney and Universal Studios), and there are also some very unique ones on the Seibu line. Spend a whole day at an amusement park for some “only in Japan” experiences, discover history, or relax at a spa.

Seibuenn Yuenchi Fun for the whole family with Hello Kitty

This amusement park is designed for all ages and offers a broad palette of areas to discover. Meet Japan’s most iconic character, Hello Kitty, at Fairy Tail Town, along with her other friends, who are featured in rides and souvenirs. There is even a variety of Hello Kitty lunch boxes available should you be hungry. During summer, dive into the pool or watch fireworks in the evening; during winter, enjoy the amazing illumination events at night. Pick up some limited-edition merchandise at the souvenir shop or relax at the restaurants to get ready for your next adventure!

Tokoshimaen & Niwa no Yu

Toshimaen, the hot spring resort located right next to the Tokoshimaen, offers a full range of relaxing facilities on two floors. Unwind in hot springs while enjoying the magnificent view of the Japanese garden right in front of you. Spa, sauna, pool and jacuzzi areas are available as well. (Be aware that tattoos are not allowed.)

Tokoshimaen Hours & Closing days: Differ every day, check their website for details Admission: 830 yen (adults), 500 yen (children) separate fee for rides and attractions Address: 3-25-1 Koyama, Nerima-ku, Tokyo Access: 1min walk from Tokoshimaen Station (Seibu Toshima Line)

Niwa no Yu Hours: 11am – 9pm (last admission 8pm) Admission: 2,110 yen Address: 3-25-1 Koyama, Nerima-ku, Tokyo Access: 1min walk from Tokoshimaen Station (Seibu Toshima Line)

Miyazawa Lake Onsen - Kirari Bettee

A hot spring with a view

For a relaxing day with the best food and spa, look no further. If you haven’t tried Japanese bathing culture yet, Kirari Bettee provides everything in one place: open-air baths, large indoor baths and a bedrock bath with a splendid view of Lake Miyazawa. Kohan Sarayu, a restaurant using only local produce and seasonal ingredients, and an authentic soba noodle restaurant, Gensui, are at your service. Stroll through the onsen grounds wearing a yuwa, a light cotton kimono available for rent and let your mind feel at ease. Lake Miyazawa, surrounded by hills, has become a very popular recreational area over the years.

Eko-Tokyo Open Air Architectural Museum

See history built before your eyes

Enter a time warp and discover what life was like during the early Edo (1603 – 1868) and post World War II periods. You can even visit most of the 30 buildings and even visit an authenticity-themed handmade noodle restaurant, called Musashino soba noodle restaurant, Gensuiian, are at your service. Stroll through the onsen grounds wearing a yuwa, a light cotton kimono available for rent and let your mind feel at ease. Lake Miyazawa, surrounded by hills, has become a very popular recreational area over the years.

Takorozawa Aviation Memorial Park

Unique park that both kids and adults can enjoy

On the former ground of Japan’s first airbase (opened in 1911) is Takorozawa’s Aviation Memorial Park. The park includes a museum inside a hangar that houses several aircraft which are also accessible from the inside. Turn yourself into a pilot from the past and get a commemorative picture taken! Another highlight is a number of flight simulators, each of which turn any visit into a once-in-a-lifetime experience. After touring the museum, stop by the Saishou tea garden. Cross the quaint little bridge to the teahouse and enjoy the view over the garden from inside while sipping a cup of green tea or matcha and sampling a variety of typical Japanese sweets. Get the full Japanese experience at a single location!
All Anime Fans Aboard the Seibu Line!

Whether you're new to the anime (hand-drawn or computer animation) world or have been an avid fan for years, the Seibu Railway Line is the absolute hub for discovering its origin. While many people aren't aware that the roots of the anime industry are located along one railway track, actually both new and old studies as well as anime pilgrimage spots are waiting for your visit.

Tokiwaso
The origin of all manga
Introducing the mecca that every manga (Japanese-style comics) fan should visit! Tokiwaso is the old residency where the pioneers of manga such as Osamu Tezuka (Astro Boy) and Fujiko Fujio (Fujiko no Oyasumidokoro) near the old site, featuring a reconstruction of one of the residents' rooms. Take a trip to the very root of all manga! Although the building itself is no more, there are many memorial sites around the area and a small museum (Tokiwaso-dori Oyasumidokoro) near the old site, featuring a reconstruction of one of the resident's rooms. Take a trip to the very root of all manga!

Address: 2-3-2 Minami-nagasaki, Toshima-ku, Tokyo
Access: 15-min walk from Shinjuku Station (Keibukuro Station)
Hours: 10am – 6pm (Apr. – Sep.), 10am – 5pm (Oct. – Mar.) Closed: Monday
Admission: Free

Oizumi Gakuen Anime Gate
Your heroes in real life
Oizumi in Nerima-ku is the hometown of Toei Animation and its primary station, Oizumi-Gakuen, showcases iconic characters from animation and manga stories such as Astro Boy, Lum and Maetel. Toei was the major animation studio in Japan creating feature animations for movie theaters, and gave Nerima the name of “birthplace of Japanese animation”.

Address: 5-Higashi-Oizumi, Nerima-ku, Tokyo
Access: Right outside Oizumi Gakuen Station-North Exit (Seibu Ikebukuro Line)

Chichibu anime pilgrimage (Ano hana)
Chichibu sees visits from a lot of anime fans. It is known for being the setting of the hit anime series “Anohana: The Flower We Saw That Day”. At Seibu Chichibu Station, you can pick up a map marking all notable locations such as Chichibu Bridge, Jourin-ji Temple or Chichibu Jinya.

Suginami Animation Museum
Learn all about anime is origins
If you’ve always wondered about how your favorite animations are made, just head down to the Suginami Animation Museum. The exhibition shows the extensive history of Japanese animation, how it’s made and even has some marvelous interactive displays. Try dubbing your own anime, tracing over a lightbox or read manga and watch anime for free in the museum library. After a visit, the fascinating world of Japanese animation will hold no more secrets for you!

Hours: 10am – 6pm Closed: Monday
Address: Suginami Kaikan 3F, 3-29-5 Kami-igusa, Suginami-ku, Tokyo
Access: 5-min bus ride from Kami-Igusa Station (Seibu Shinjuku Line) to Ogikubo Kaisatsu-mae bus stop / 20-min bus ride from Suginami-ku Station (Seibu Ikebukuro Line) to Ogikubo Kaisatsu-mae bus stop
Admission: Free

Gundam Monument
An icon of popular Japanese subculture
The headquarters of Sunrise Studios, the creators of Gundam and various other anime, are located near Kami-igusa Station. It seems only fitting that a bronze, three-meter high monument stands in the vicinity, almost as if keeping a watchful eye on passersby.
Access: Directly outside Kami-Igusa Station (Seibu Shinjuku Line)

Coffee & Restaurant Aoyagi
Try fancy anime-themed dishes
With the establishment in 1950, Aoyagi started its business as a Japanese confectionery and transformed into a café over the years. Since this spot is located near Sunrise Studios, Aoyagi counts a large number of creative heads to its regular customers. The menu has some fun collaborations such as the “escafloat” (named after the Sunrise series “The Vision of Escaflowne”) and special “Sergeant Keroro” cakes with images of the cute frog character on the packaging. The walls are decorated with original drawings by Sunrise animators and posters of the studio’s latest projects. This is surely a “must stop” for any Sunrise fan!

Hours: 10am – 11pm Closed: 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month
Address: Aoyagi Building 1F, 2-35-7 Kamiigusa, Suginami-ku, Tokyo
Access: 2-min walk from Kami-Igusa Station (Seibu Shinjuku Line)
Enjoy our picks of the “best-of-the-best” that the Seibu Line has to offer!

Fun on the Seibu Line never stops! Explore uniquely Japanese areas, temples that you can only experience only on the Seibu Line

Amazing activities that you can only experience on the Seibu Line

Get Zen in an amazing setting
Heirin-ji Temple
At first glance, this temple area might seem simple, but it houses a rich and remarkable Zen history. Founded in 1375, it is one of Kantō’s most famous ancient temples. The open space and simplicity is meant to enrich the architecture and calm visitors’ minds. To this very day, the monks of Heirin-ji practice Zen Buddhism of the Rinzai school behind the doors of the temple. For people who don’t follow a strict regime, the gardens are open to explore, with gorgeous flowers in spring and breathtaking foliage in autumn.

Admire a spectacular temple garden
Nonin-ji Temple
Nonin-ji dates back to 1531, during the Muromachi period, however the garden is a masterpiece from the Momoyama era (1573 - 1603). With support from the Shogun Tokugawa leyasu, the temple thrived as a monastery. The garden skillfully incorporates the steep slope of the nearby mountain with the temple complex; in fact, it has been selected as one of the country’s top hundred Japanese gardens. The temple grounds feature a bell tower, beautiful gates and a main hall with an impressive interior. Visitors can join Zen meditation sessions every Sunday from 9am - 12am (reservation required).

Shrine with a famous relative
Higashi Fushimi Inari Jinja Shrine
This shrine dedicated to Inari is an extension of the famous Higashi Fushimi Inari Taisha shrine in Kyoto. Its name literally means “East Fushimi Inari Inari.” It was officially divided from its Kyoto counterpart in 1929. Here you can find stunning vermilion gates along a single street. These shopping and amusement locales – usually filled with smaller, family-owned shops and restaurants, each with its own history and tradition – are some of the best places for foreigners to become part of the social scene and experience local lifestyle. Nagata is a perfect example!

The powerspot which heals any eye disease
Arai Yakuushi Baiso-in Temple
This temple, which used to be as popular as the Sensou-ji in Asakusa, is well known for its purported power to heal eyes and help with child rearing, and eye. It is also known as a famous hatsumode spot (where people make their first shrine visit of the year), as well as a sakura viewing destination. The principal objects of worship at this temple are Bhasayaguru (buddha who is able to cure all ills) and Cintamani-chakra, both combined in a single object and known as the great teacher of Buddha philosophy.

A delicious frog-shaped sweet
Hinasakudo
Obanyaki (a hot pancake-butter cake baked with sweet bean paste) is one of Japan’s most popular pastries. While walking along the charming Nagota shotengai, you can sample obanyaki with an added extra: adorable frog-face design! Word to the wise: the frog faces are always different, so – to enjoy the full experience – be sure to look before you leap and eat!

Grilled ginger pork is the tradition
Nogata Shotengai
This spot has become a popular place to pray for the return of your cat (pedestrian commercial districts running along a single street). These shopping and amusement locales – usually filled with smaller, family-owned shops and restaurants, each with its own history and tradition – are some of the best places for foreigners to become part of the social scene and experience local lifestyle. Nagata is a perfect example!

Shrimp with a famous relative
Higashi Fushimi Inari Jinja Shrine
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Prepare to line up: The best ramen in town
Ramen Jiro, Hibiya-gaoka
With several branches, Ramen Jiro has achieved somewhat of a cult status. At all hours, visitors will find people lining up outside any branch to fill their stomachs with this popular ramen – possibly challenging to finish? – ramen bowl. Homemade tonkotsu broth (stock made from pork bones), pork with plenty of fat, bean sprouts and, of course, ramen noodles make up this rich meal. And it’s well worth the wait!

An Italian food
Girasole
This lovely Italian restaurant’s name translates to “sunflower” and its dishes have the same beautiful, bright, brilliant appearance as its namesake; original pastas and salads are perfectly arranged to highlight the contrasts between the ingredients. The chef only uses local produce, and they stock an original craft beer from Tokorozawa(Yarau Golden), which complements virtually everything on the menu. Most importantly, of course, taste never loses out to appearance in any way, bite after bite!

The “cat came back” shrine for cat lovers
Azusamiten Jinja Shrine
This shrine has become a popular place to pray for the return of your cat ever since internationally renowned jazz pianist Youseke Yamashita prayed here for the return of his cat. Miraculously, some say, his beloved pet came back safely the next day – after being gone a full 17 days! Even before that happened, though, this place was meant to worship cats, who were seen as protectors for the silkworm industry since they ate the rats who threatened the worms. To this day, people buy ema (wooden plaques) and hang them at the shrine to pray for their feline companions.

A mini-barbecue
Torifuji
Japanese are known for their love of yokitori (skewered meat), and this shop grills the skewers right before customers’ eyes to guarantee the freshest taste. Choose from a variety of sauce combinations or simply have your choice grilled with salt. Open 12 hours a day, Torifuji proves that you can enjoy a mini-barbecue at any time of day!

Scrumptious rice crackers: senbei
Kintoki Senbei
Kintoki Senbei is an irresistible senbei (rice crackers) shop which has kept up to the high standards of its original since 1933 while at the same time constantly developing new flavor combinations. Kintoki Senbei offers a broad range of beautiful and delectable senbei in different shapes, including its standard round one and a (highly recommended) Mt. Fuji version.

An floral take on Italian food
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Ramen Jiro, Hibiya-gaoka
With several branches, Ramen Jiro has achieved somewhat of a cult status. At all hours, visitors will find people lining up outside any branch to fill their stomachs with this popular ramen – possibly challenging to finish? – ramen bowl. Homemade tonkotsu broth (stock made from pork bones), pork with plenty of fat, bean sprouts and, of course, ramen noodles make up this rich meal. And it’s well worth the wait!

Hours: 11:30am – 2:30pm & 5:45pm – 9:15pm (Mon. – Fri.), 10:30am – 4:30pm (Sat.) Closed: Sunday
Address: Hibiya-gaoka Plaza 1F, 3-27-24 Yato-cho, Nishi-Tokyo-shi, Tokyo
Access: 2-min walk from Hibarigaoka Station (Seibu Ikebukuro Line)
By adding 500 yen to Seibu Railway’s “All-you-can-ride Pass”, you can even plan to take the limited express train, another small fee of 500 yen. If you stand-still atmosphere on about its structure, and a time-stood-still atmosphere on Ichigaya Station which is lined with kurazukuri houses. Access: 10 min walk from Hon-Kawagoe Station (Seibu Shinjuku Line).

Kawagoe Festival

Kure-machi (Old Storehouse Town)

Go back in time on the streets of Kawagoe, where lovely old warehouses have been turned into adorable shops and peaceful cafés. The famous Toto-no-kane (Bell Tower) makes you feel like a citizen of the Edo Period! There is the museum store where you can go inside a kurazukuri (traditional warehouse) and learn about its structure, and a time-stood-still atmosphere on Ichigaya Station which is lined with kurazukuri houses. Access: 10 min walk from Hon-Kawagoe Station (Seibu Shinjuku Line).

Kashiya Yokocho (Penny Candy Alley)

In Kawagoe’s “Little Edo” you will find this quaint, stone-paved alley resonating with traditional flair. But what’s most attractive about this street are about 20 traditional-style Japanese candy shops. Give your sweet tooth a nostalgic moment with a visit to Candy Alley!

Kawagoe Hikawa Jinja Shrine

This cultural property of Saitama Prefecture houses the god of marriage. Not only can you pray here for a happy marriage, but you can also wish for romance to come your way. A fun play on the classic amikyō (fortune telling paper), are the red snapper fish ornaments with fortunes inside. During summer, there is a wind chime festival and you can stroll through a tunnel decorated with lovely chimes called “the tunnel of love”.


Kita-in Temple

Located high up Mt. Mitsumine, 1,102m, this magnificent temple has many unique features. For starters, is the Zuijin-mon which is decorated with richly colored carvings, the Zuijin-mon is one of three major shrines in Chichibu. Where you can admire the colorful painted decoration of wood carvings under the roof of the main hall. Making your way up from the shrine, you will find a ropeway that brings you to the top of the mountain, giving you a beautiful view of seasonal flowers as you ascend.

The Blue SEIBU RAIL PASS

Price: 1,500 yen

Purchase of a special designated agency reservation.
1. Route: Narita Airport → Chichibu. Round trip with the local train from Seibu-Sendai Station or Seibu-Shinjuku Station until Narita Station. The return trip will be free of charge in the same train and stand ticket. This pass is valid only for one day of your choice between the 1st and 29th of every month.

The Red SEIBU RAIL PASS

Price: 1,100 yen

Purchase of a special designated agency reservation.
2. Route: Narita Airport → Chichibu. Round trip with the local train from Seibu-Shinjuku Station or Seibu-Sendai Station to Chichibu. The return trip will be free of charge in the same train and stand ticket. This pass is valid only for one day of your choice between the 1st and 29th of every month.

Saitama Platinum Route: Kawagoe-Chichibu-Nagatoro

Enjoy the Saitama Platinum Route! This useful travel route promotes the best areas of Saitama by putting them in the spotlight. Using the Seibu Railway Line, you can travel easily between Chichibu, Kawagoe, and Nagatoro. We recommend that you spend the first day visiting Kawagoe and enjoy Chichibu and Nagatoro on the second day.

Kawagoe Festival

Travel back to ancient Japan in an area lovingly called Koedo (literally meaning “little Tokyo”) and pray for luck at the local shrines. During the Edo period, this city was one of the main suppliers of goods and services and thus a major trading post for Tokyo. It boomed as a commercial city and, because of its location away from Tokyo, Kawagoe City remained protected from natural and human disasters and retained most of its original form.

44-min from Seibu-Shinjuku Station to Kawagoe by Limited Express.

Chichibu

With most of its natural areas a designated natural park, Chichibu boasts an amazing variety of activities. Whether you like seeing cultural sites in the city or exploring the great outdoors, there is something for everyone. A visit makes for a great breather for those who need to get away from the hustle and bustle of Tokyo.

Chichibu Yomatsuri (Chichibu Night Festival)

Regarded as one of the three greatest float parade festivals in Japan and was added to the list of UNESCO World Heritage sites in 2016. It is Chichibu Shrine’s annual festival, with a history of more than 300 years. Be sure to stop by on December 2nd and 3rd - you won’t be disappointed.

Chichibu is surrounded by mountains, Mt. Bukouzan. Originally wealthy because of its silk industry, the city’s fabrics, particularly called meisen, gained popularity throughout Japan and the world from the mid Meiji era. You can look a cross the entire city area from Mitsubishi Park Miharashi no Oka, which is also famous for its “shibazakura” (pink moss) in spring. Together with the re-opening of Seibu-Chichibu Station in spring 2017, an orson facility called “Matsuri no Yu” was established right in front of the station.

Steam Locomotive: The Paleo Express

The Paleo Express is a steam locomotive that takes you back in time. Cross the beautiful mountains and have time to relax while admiring the rural landscape. Pictorial views you’ve always wanted to see. The Paleo Express is in service on weekends and holidays (please check the trains information before hand).

Nagatoro

Just a short trip from Chichibu lies this beautiful geopark area with dynamic ravines, including the Hodamori Rocks. River tubing is one of the town’s major attractions. Visit Hodosan Shrine, one of three major shrines in Chichibu. Where you can admire the colorful painted decoration of wood carvings under the roof of the main hall. Making your way up from the shrine, you will find a ropeway that brings you to the top of the mountain, giving you a beautiful view of seasonal flowers as you ascend.

Mitsumine Jinja Shrine

Located high up Mt. Mitsumine(1,102m), this magnificent shrine has many unique features. For starters, is said to be found by the warrior hero of Japan Yamato Takeru. The sanctuary of Mitsumine is different in atmosphere from usual shrines. Jinja has many historical buildings, such as Haiden (a hall of worship) decorated with richly colored carvings, the Zuijin-mon (Gate with guardians) and the Yohaiden (worship space). On weekends and holidays, the entrance fee is very limited.

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